

# **The Role Of Extracurricular Activities In Developing Students' Interests And Talents In Elementary Schools**

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## **Abstract**

Elementary school is a level of education that can shape students' personalities and develop the potential embedded within themselves. Apart from delivering academic material, there is also a need for other school programs to support student growth and development, one of which is extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities are an integral part of school life that can provide various benefits for students. knowledgeable and character. To achieve optimal educational goals, there needs to be supporting factors from various parties, one of which is the role of teachers in schools to develop creativity, interests and talents. This research uses a literature study method by looking for theoretical references and written summaries such as from books, journals or e-books by organizing or integrating them into the necessary topics. Participating in extracurricular activities is one way for students to explore their interests and talents. Students' potential and abilities can be seen by participating in these activities. By knowing one's talents, interests and potential, it will be easier for a person to determine steps in achieving more focused life goals.

**Keywords:** Elementary School; .Extracurricular; Interest and Talents,

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## **Introduction**

Education has an important role in improving the quality of human resources needed to create an advanced nation. According to its basic principles, education is a process intended to instill self-discipline in individuals so that they can become smart and have character (Indah Ayu at al, 2020: 23). To achieve the best possible educational goals, there must be input from several stakeholders, one of which is the presence of teachers in schools to develop students' critical thinking and problem solving skills. Children's talents, interests and creativity are important factors that can affect their success in the learning process.

Primary school is a type of education that can develop students' confidence and bring out their hidden potential. In addition to the development of academic materials, other school programs are needed to support students' growth, the most important of which are



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extracurricular activities. Naturally, experiential learning provides a lot of motivation for students to be active and explore their environment.

In general, extracurricular activities serve as a guide for students to participate in activities that suit their interests, hobbies, personality, and creativity. These exercises can be used as a tool to help identify student council members and conduct systematic interviews to determine student characteristics. Regular exercises in schools focus on intellectual, religious, physical, athletic, cultural arts and other subjects.

The purpose of extracurricular activities is to help students become more self-aware and able to think critically (Wulandari, Amelia, et al. 2023). Every student has unique skills and abilities in certain areas. One of the important things to keep in mind when doing early education is the interests and talents of students. Because every student needs an appropriate educational design to minimize all the challenges of their lives.

Extracurricular activities are an important part of school life that can provide many benefits for students. Experiential learning not only helps students develop their social skills, strengthen their bonds with others, and increase their motivation to learn, but also serves as a guide for them. One example of an experiential learning activity that can help students develop confidence and perseverance is archery. In athletics, students can discover their interests and engage in healthy physical activities. In addition, sports help students in developing coordination skills, physical fitness and teamwork

## Method

The method used in this article is a form of literature review in the form of collecting from analyzing information that is considered suitable for qualitative and quantitative data. The steps of compiling this literature review research consist of four stages consisting of Looking at the Problem, Searching for Literature, Screening Literature, Analysis. The researcher's goal is to take further steps to find and then explore material from various clear sources. Researchers will describe the problem as the basis for analysis to enter the next stage. So that when the problem definition has been found, enter the literature collection, namely the search for appropriate journals, for example looking for theories on the subject matter, methods, other details. After collecting, namely screening the literature, researchers can choose to narrow down the purpose or content of the literature, then the results of the literature can sharpen the purpose of analyzing research data.

## Results and Discussion

### The Concept of Extracurricular Activities in Primary Schools (Including Extracurricular Issues in Primary Schools)

Organizations in elementary schools usually consist of student councils and extracurricular activities. It is undeniable that the student council is often in demand by students, but the student council is also limited to embracing students, so extracurricular activities are present according to talent interests and even many types of extracurricular activities are more specific, for example in the fields of art, sports, science, and many more branching Srisudarso, M., & Nurhasanah, E. (2018).

Extracurricular special activities outside of class hours to accommodate students who have hobbies or interests outside of academics, one of which is kinesthetic intelligence. If developed properly, students are able to self-actualize in their own positive way. Quoted from the Culture of the Republic of Indonesia Number 62 of 2014 concerning Extracurricular Activities in Saputri, Sa'adah: Development of Learners' Interests and Talents "Extracurricular activities are organized with the aim of optimally developing the potential, talents, interests, abilities, personality, cooperation, and independence of students in order to achieve national

education goals", according to Article 2 of Primary and Secondary Education (Fani & Busyari, 2019, p. 185).

It is important to pay close attention when running extracurricular activities as follows: packaging material that does not burden students or make it a medium to achieve their agility in managing interests and talents; Because there are many functions and meanings of extracurricular activities that help achieve educational goals, the changes experienced by students depend on how effectively these activities are carried out.

The needs that need to be developed in extracurricular activities are potential and talent interests. It is usually a problem if children who like non-academic sports are required to take private math lessons. Therefore, recognizing children's potential is needed early on so that they can balance their academic and non-academic needs.

### **Successful Implementation of Extracurricular**

Achievement is the result of hard work done diligently so that it creates a sense of satisfaction in a person (student). As stated by Soemantri in Nurani (2004), academic achievement is defined as the results that have been achieved by students within a certain period of time during their study period which is assessed using numbers and stated in the form of a report card. As one component of educational success, learning achievement includes academic and non-academic achievement. According to Abdurrahman (2008), non-academic achievement is defined as skills or abilities acquired by students outside the classroom.

According to Dalyono (2009), there are two factors that influence performance. The first factor is internal factors, which are factors from within oneself that affect health, understanding and behavior, motivation and drive, learning style, and health. The second factor is external factors, which are factors from outside a person that affect family, community, school, and the surrounding environment. Academic achievement or also known as learning achievement is also known as the highest level of learning outcomes because it is a student's achievement during the learning process (Sari & Trihantoyo, 2019). Based on this data, it can be said that students' self-esteem will increase and their relationship with their environment will significantly improve their achievement. Students can benefit from both of these by engaging in lessons outside of the general school subjects. where schools provide this platform through extracurricular activities.

Extracurricular activities are extracurricular activities that students do outside of class hours to improve their knowledge, skills and abilities in ongoing subjects. These activities are usually organized by schools or educational organizations and include various types of clubs or organizations, such as debate, music, sports, and so on. One way that students can develop their potential is through experiential learning, which will produce learning outcomes, especially academic learning outcomes. In accordance with Sutjipto and Mukti (1992), the purpose of extracurricular activities is to improve students' understanding, improve students' ability to understand the relationship between the classroom and the real world, sharpen reading and writing skills, support the achievement of intracurricular goals, and broaden the horizons of Indonesian society.

Several studies have shown that extracurricular activities can help students become more engaged and achieve the best learning outcomes in their program of study. Of course, these extracurricular activities need to be linked to the learning objectives mentioned above. Karim (2013) states that extracurricular activities are highly relevant to the learning objectives, which are to enhance and broaden students' understanding and assist them in strengthening their sense of self. These experiential learning activities will be more beneficial if they receive support from every area in the school. In addition, as people who engage in quiet conversations with students, teachers should be able to assist students in integrating themselves into activities that will help them achieve their academic goals.

Participating in extracurricular activities outside the classroom can help students become more self-aware, which can improve their academic performance. As is the responsibility exercised by students in out-of-class activities. The implementation teaches students to model the responsibilities they encounter in extracurricular activities. This is in line with the findings of Hughes and Hughes (2018) in the book *Learning & Teaching* which states that routines or biases formed from students' exposure to teacher responsibilities will result in biases that negatively impact their personal growth.

In their book, Sutirna and Samsudin (2015) explain how endearing human characteristics contribute to human essence, such as the desire to always be curious, the ability to be independent, have strong moral principles, significant dedication, and test. These principles reduce maturity. Any social interaction with others can result in this kind of deception. According to Muinah (2020), extracurricular activities serve as a miniaturized version of everyday life, allowing students to engage in social interactions with each other. This situation affects students' character development.

By engaging in extracurricular activities, students are expected to become physically and mentally healthy individuals. In accordance with Prihatin (2011), God Almighty has responsibility and concern for the surrounding social, cultural and natural environment. Congratulations on behaving as good and responsible citizens through positive activities under the responsibility of the school. Engaging in outdoor activities will enhance your social and cultural skills and your ability to adapt to various situations. In addition, positive reinforcement and behavior will have a positive impact on students' grades. This is related to the statement made by Prihatin (2011) in the book that experiential learning activities help students grow individually through many related activities that can be done slowly or quickly.

### **Optimization of Interest and Talent Development**

Extracurricular activities are very helpful for students to develop and highlight their interests and talents. Winning in a competition is one form of increasing students' interests and talents that are accommodated in extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities have been successful in bringing many achievements.

In an effort to develop interests and talents, there are several programs that can be implemented by schools, namely by providing additional learning opportunities and facilities outside of subject hours that support and deepen talent to students at school, one of which is by holding extracurricular activities. As stated in the *Elementary Components of School Progress* that the function of extracurricular activities is as a means of supporting students' personal development to form character.

In the process of implementing this extracurricular activity, students get training, guidance and support from a teacher or coach who is an expert in their respective fields. This certainly provides a great opportunity for students to be able to develop and optimize their abilities, talents, critical thinking, creativity and innovation to the fullest. As a relevant component in a curriculum, self-improvement certainly involves various activities outside of class subjects. Ren, Kutaka (2020) stated that self-development aims to shape students' characters, habits, attitudes and personalities obtained from extracurricular activities. Student talent is one of the important goals of self-development.

Interest is a person's desire to focus on something that is liked or favored. According to Ali and Ansori (2010) interest is an innate ability or skill that has the opportunity to develop. Meanwhile, talent will be generated by regular and continuous training and seriousness in order to be well formed. In other words, talent is also an ability that requires practice in developing it in order to create a special skill.

In the book of educational psychology, according to Soeganda Poerbakawatha, talent is the seed or seedling of a new attitude that will have the potential to continue to develop. Meanwhile, Jersild and Taisch say that interest is more concerned with a particular activity or activity that can be chosen according to pleasure and passion freely by everyone.

By joining extracurricular activities, this is one way students can explore their interests and talents. Students' potential and abilities can be seen by participating in these activities. By knowing one's talents, interests and potentials, it will be easier for a person to be able to determine steps in achieving more directed life goals. According to Denault, et al (2019), extracurricular activities can provide students with better opportunities and avenues to be able to explore all forms of talent development and student creativity (Magdelana, et al, 2020).

There are several factors or influences that can determine success in achieving these goals such as the role of supportive parents, supportive mentor teachers, and environmental conditions that can be a place to learn. Extracurricular activities are a way in which students can develop potential and optimize all abilities, strengths as well as self-skills according to the interests and talents of each individual student, with the guidance of educators who have competence in certain fields.

At the beginning of the implementation, students can determine and choose for themselves which extracurricular activities are suitable and they like. In every learning process carried out, it is very important for the accompanying teacher to conduct an assessment or evaluation of the results. Student learning outcomes in these extracurricular activities include several changes that continue to increase, both in terms of behavior, feelings and motor skills. Through this activity, the hidden talents that exist in students can emerge and be honed optimally.

### **Principles that should be developed to improve extracurricular**

Shilviana & Hamami (2020), state that there are several principles, including: 1) The individual principle, in carrying out extracurricular activities, it should be considered in accordance with the potential, talents and ideals of each student; 2) The principle of choice, in carrying out these activities, it must be carried out according to the wishes of the students and there is no coercive element; 3) The principle of active participation, the organization of extracurricular activities should be aimed at encouraging the full participation of students; 4) The principle of fun, in carrying out extracurricular activities it is necessary to create an environment that is beneficial, fun, and comfortable for students; 5) The principle of work ethic, in carrying out these activities, it should be directed at activities that increase students' desire to get good grades and results; 6) The principle of social benefits, extracurricular activities must be associated with activities that benefit the community.

The principles that already exist must be continuously developed to improve extracurricular activities. The development of these principles is intended to prevent deviations in the implementation of extracurricular activities so that they can manage extracurricular activities, avoid negative impacts, and provide proper accommodation to students (Nurdiana, 2021). Therefore, by developing existing principles, extracurricular activities can help students' academic and personal development better.

### **Conclusion**

Activities outside of class that students do to develop their interests, talents and abilities in certain areas are called extracurricular activities. In primary schools, extracurricular activities are very important for developing students' interests and talents. These activities not only help students learn academic abilities, but also help them learn non-academic skills such as leadership, teamwork and self-discipline. Extracurricular activities also help students recognize their potential and increase their motivation to excel in school. Some of the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor changes that continue to increase are the results of students learning from these extracurricular activities. With these activities, students' hidden talents can emerge and be fully honed.

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